

# THE COMMONWEALTH.

Thursday, Nov. 2, 1882.

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

D. E. STAINBACK, EDITOR.

## THE HOMESTEAD.

The Radical papers, so far as we have seen, make no reports of Col. Dockery's speeches. From notices in Democratic papers printed where he has spoken, and from gentlemen also entirely reliable who have heard him, we learn that eulogy of the Constitution of 1868, the Canby Constitution, is the feature of his speech. Col. Dockery's language on this subject is what is sometimes called eloquent, and sometimes designated highfaluting. The Canby Constitution, Col. Dockery says, "was the grandest production of human wisdom that ever emanated from the brain of man," because it, first in North Carolina, made provision for a Homestead Law and personal property exemptions; for laborers' and mechanics' lien; for the rights of married women; for the abolition of imprisonment for debt; for the election of magistrates by the people; for free suffrage in place of the old property qualification required for Senate voters. The Colonel's peroration, that is to say, what we plain North Carolina people might call the tail-end of a spread-eagle, is to the effect that all the good ever accomplished for the State was accomplished by this Constitution and the party which made it, and that the Democrats have never done "one single thing" for the people that resulted in good.

Skipping the peroration, as that end of a spread-eagle is allowed to display itself at will, let us look into the statements made as facts, and we will take them backwards from the peroration, as that being last has been first referred to:

1. "Free Suffrage" was established in 1868, fourteen years before the Canby Constitution was thought of. The Constitution was amended in that year, the result of the movement begun in 1848 by Gov. David S. Reid, the first Democrat elected Governor of North Carolina. Colonel Dockery was quite old enough in 1848 to take an active interest in defeating Gov. Reid and his proposed constitutional change.

2. The election of magistrates was taken from the Legislature by the Canby Convention. We need not discuss the results here. Some of them are noted elsewhere in the official county statements, and few people have forgotten the evil days of negro and scalawag rule.

3. Imprisonment for debt abolished. Most readers of this paper can find in their neighborhood a copy of the Laws of 1866-67. If they will turn to page 85, they will find "An act to abolish imprisonment for debt;" and this act is precisely what was put in the Constitution of 1868 by the Canby Convention. In 1866, negroes did not vote and white men then, as white men now, were Democrats. The Legislature was white, and of course the Legislature was almost unanimously Democratic. The bill to abolish imprisonment for debt was introduced into the House on January 24th, 1867, by Mr. Dargan of Anson, Democrat; was referred on the 29th to a special committee of three Democrats, Messrs. Moore, Dargan and McKay; was reported from committee on the 30th, and on the same day passed its three readings by 87 to 19. It came up in the Senate on February 12th, passing its second reading, 24 to 12, and on the 20th passed its third reading, 26 to 19, and became the law.

4. The Homestead and Exemption law, the lien law, and the married woman's law. The reader who looks, as above advised, into the Laws of 1866-67, may find on page 81, "An act to establish freehold homesteads," &c.; which law, curtailed and abridged in value of homestead and amount of personal property exemptions, but unchanged as to liens and married woman's rights, was transferred to the Canby Constitution of 1868 and forms Article X of that instrument, as any one may see who will take the trouble to examine. The bill which was made law by this Legislature of 1866-67, composed as above stated of white men, who were of course Democrats, was introduced into the Senate by that old fashioned Democrat, Mr. Berry of Orange, and passed by a vote of 38 to 6. The House passed it without dissent, as reported from a committee of conference on some points of disagreement.

We have said above that instead of javeining the Homestead Law, the Radicals in the Canby Constitution curtailed and abridged the Home-

stead and Exemption laws then and therefore existing. Col. Dockery may say that this matter of legal constitution, and may intimate that we know no more of law than the evidently little known to him. So we will cite authority that he will not venture to dispute. In the 69th volume, Reports of the North Carolina Supreme Court, pages 396-405, is a report of the case of Garrett vs. Cheshire. The decision of the Court—which consisted of the five Rati-cal Judges, Pearson, Reade, Rodman, Seale and Boyden—was pronounced by Judge Edwin G. Reade. It is all interesting reading, but we have space only for the paragraphs relating to the matter in hand, which show that the Radical Constitution abridged the exemptions established by the Democrats not only in 1866, but so far back as in 1856. Judge Reade says:

"Our act of 1856, Rev. Code, exempts personal property, articles by name, which may be of the value of several hundred dollars, more or less, according to the circumstances of of the debtor's family. And in 1856-67, prior to the existence of the debt in the case before us, an act was passed exempting all neces-sary farming and mechanical tools, one work-horse, one yoke of oxen, one cart or wagon, one milch cow and calf, fifteen head of hogs, 500 lbs of pork or bacon, 50 bushels of corn, 20 bushels of wheat, household and kitchen furniture not exceeding \$200 in value; the libraries of at-torneys at law, practising physicians and ministers of the gospel, and the instruments of surgeons and dentists, used in their profession." Acts of 1866-67, chapter 61.

"It is apparent that an allotment of those articles approximate \$1,000, and in many cases would exceed that sum in value. And the same act al-lows a homestead of 100 acres, with-out restriction as to value, which in many cases would be worth, with the improvements, many thousands.

"In 1858 our constitution was adopted, and in that our present homestead law is limited to \$1,000 reality, not in fee simple, but for a limited time, and personally to the value of \$500. Can it be said of our homestead laws, as the learned Judge said of the Georgia law, that any one in casting his eye over them, as compared with former exemptions, would be struck by the magnitude of the increase? Our homestead law is not an increase, but a restriction upon former exemptions."

The Union-Republican prints under the head of "Important Correspondence" a letter from a number of Re-publicans, who, it says, are the most substantial and influential citizens of their community, calling on Mr. Ran-som Phipps to advise them what to do politically. Mr. Phipps' answer is also given. He declares his devo-tion to the Republican party. "If men say that it has performed its mission, and ought to be destroyed, let us take no part in its destruction." He then shows that Liberalism or coalition means the destruction of the Republican party. We quote: "Are you ready to abandon the Republican party, and join a new political organization, which is to be controlled by men who have spent the better portions of their lives in committing and in justifying the commission of all the crimes which have perpetrated in the interest of the Democratic party.

As they failed in their efforts to destroy the Republican party, I sup-pose they now think that by organiz-ing a new party, they can accomplish their long cherished hopes.

I understand that their nominee for Judge of the Supreme Court, was indicated by Judge Seale, who was then solicitor in this district, for murdering Union men in the county of Randolph. Can you be persuaded to vote for such a man?"

He closed in these words: "The principal advocates of the new movement, and those who pack conventions for the purpose of forc-ing objectionable men upon us, are revenue officials. Possibly, we can-not prevent this, but we can refuse to vote for their candidates, and thereby secure the nomination of better men in the future. Our would be masters will see that packing conventions and nominating candidates is one thing, and forcing the people to vote is another.

We had better suffer a defeat, than achieve a victory at the sacrifice of principle.

My friends, I have said more than I intended to say when I commenced, but the Republican party is dear to my heart, and an attempt to destroy it, rouses all my indignation, and takes me back to '61, and all the ter-rible consequences that followed the coalition of Secession Democrats and

Secession Whigs. I feel confident that there were enough honest Dem-ocrats who would have co-operated with us, and carried the State, if we had nominated a good Republican ticket. We have been sold out, but if we are true to ourselves, the 7th of November will tell if we can be de-livered. Very truly, your friend,  
RANSOM PHIPPS."

A sure cure for impoverished blood, pimples, and sallow complexion, is Brown's Iron Bitters. It will produce a healthy color, smooth skin, and is absolutely not injurious.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

"Carry The News to Sallie."

New Store. New Goods.

Daniel & Norfleet,

Caledonia, N. C., on the Scotland Neck R. R.

Just received a splendid assortment of DRY GOODS,

CLOTHING,

BOOTS,

SHOES,

HATS,

GROCERIES and

CLOTHING.

And everything usually kept in a general stock.

Manufacturers Agents for all Kinds of Machinery.

Sewing Machines &c. always on hand. Highest cash price paid for seed or lint cotton.

GIVE US A TRIAL. Oct. 23, 13—tf.

D. EDMONDSON,

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C.,

Still at his old stand on the corner at the X Roads.

—DEALER IN—

GENERAL MERCHANDISE,

DRY GOODS,

NOTIONS,

HATS & CAPS

BOOTS,

SHOES,

GROCERIES.

HARDWARE, &c., &c.

In fact everything kept in a first-class Store.

Also handle several leading brands of Fertilizers. Such as Lister's Guano, as good as the best. Lee's Pre-pared Agl. Lime. Nothing to equal it for the price. Kainit Acid, Phos-phate and

Chemicals &c. All at lowest market prices. I also have in daily operation a first-class Grist Mill. All who may patronize me, I will guarantee satis-faction.

In cotton season I also run a first-class Gin with the capacity of ginning 17 bales cotton a day, and keep on hand Bagging and Ties for my patrons at the lowest market prices. All who may favor me with their patronage I will promise to do in the future as in the past, use every endeavor to give satisfaction.

Thanking my friends for their liberal patronage in the past, I hope by fair dealing and close attention to business, to merit a continuance of the same, and make many new and valuable customers. I am also prepared to furnish responsible parties on time.

Large List GUNS and NOVELTIES FREE! For St. James, Chas. Folsom, N. C.

MASON & HAMLIN

ORGANS are certainly best, having been so long in use, and are the only American organs having been found equal at any. Also Cheapest. \$100.00; \$150.00; \$200.00; \$250.00; \$300.00; \$350.00; \$400.00; \$450.00; \$500.00; \$550.00; \$600.00; \$650.00; \$700.00; \$750.00; \$800.00; \$850.00; \$900.00; \$950.00; \$1,000.00; \$1,050.00; \$1,100.00; \$1,150.00; \$1,200.00; \$1,250.00; \$1,300.00; \$1,350.00; \$1,400.00; \$1,450.00; \$1,500.00; \$1,550.00; \$1,600.00; \$1,650.00; \$1,700.00; \$1,750.00; \$1,800.00; \$1,850.00; \$1,900.00; \$1,950.00; \$2,000.00; \$2,050.00; \$2,100.00; \$2,150.00; \$2,200.00; \$2,250.00; \$2,300.00; \$2,350.00; \$2,400.00; \$2,450.00; \$2,500.00; \$2,550.00; \$2,600.00; \$2,650.00; \$2,700.00; \$2,750.00; \$2,800.00; \$2,850.00; \$2,900.00; \$2,950.00; \$3,000.00; \$3,050.00; \$3,100.00; \$3,150.00; \$3,200.00; \$3,250.00; \$3,300.00; \$3,350.00; \$3,400.00; \$3,450.00; \$3,500.00; \$3,550.00; \$3,600.00; \$3,650.00; \$3,700.00; \$3,750.00; \$3,800.00; \$3,850.00; \$3,900.00; \$3,950.00; \$4,000.00; \$4,050.00; \$4,100.00; \$4,150.00; \$4,200.00; \$4,250.00; \$4,300.00; \$4,350.00; \$4,400.00; \$4,450.00; \$4,500.00; \$4,550.00; \$4,600.00; \$4,650.00; \$4,700.00; \$4,750.00; \$4,800.00; \$4,850.00; \$4,900.00; \$4,950.00; \$5,000.00; \$5,050.00; \$5,100.00; \$5,150.00; \$5,200.00; \$5,250.00; \$5,300.00; \$5,350.00; \$5,400.00; \$5,450.00; \$5,500.00; \$5,550.00; \$5,600.00; \$5,650.00; \$5,700.00; \$5,750.00; \$5,800.00; \$5,850.00; \$5,900.00; \$5,950.00; \$6,000.00; \$6,050.00; \$6,100.00; \$6,150.00; \$6,200.00; \$6,250.00; \$6,300.00; \$6,350.00; \$6,400.00; \$6,450.00; \$6,500.00; \$6,550.00; \$6,600.00; \$6,650.00; \$6,700.00; \$6,750.00; \$6,800.00; \$6,850.00; \$6,900.00; \$6,950.00; \$7,000.00; \$7,050.00; \$7,100.00; \$7,150.00; \$7,200.00; \$7,250.00; \$7,300.00; \$7,350.00; \$7,400.00; \$7,450.00; \$7,500.00; \$7,550.00; \$7,600.00; \$7,650.00; \$7,700.00; \$7,750.00; \$7,800.00; \$7,850.00; \$7,900.00; \$7,950.00; \$8,000.00; \$8,050.00; \$8,100.00; \$8,150.00; \$8,200.00; \$8,250.00; \$8,300.00; \$8,350.00; \$8,400.00; \$8,450.00; \$8,500.00; \$8,550.00; \$8,600.00; \$8,650.00; \$8,700.00; \$8,750.00; \$8,800.00; \$8,850.00; \$8,900.00; \$8,950.00; \$9,000.00; \$9,050.00; \$9,100.00; \$9,150.00; \$9,200.00; \$9,250.00; \$9,300.00; \$9,350.00; \$9,400.00; \$9,450.00; \$9,500.00; \$9,550.00; \$9,600.00; \$9,650.00; \$9,700.00; \$9,750.00; \$9,800.00; \$9,850.00; \$9,900.00; \$9,950.00; \$10,000.00; \$10,050.00; \$10,100.00; \$10,150.00; \$10,200.00; \$10,250.00; \$10,300.00; \$10,350.00; \$10,400.00; \$10,450.00; \$10,500.00; \$10,550.00; \$10,600.00; \$10,650.00; \$10,700.00; \$10,750.00; \$10,800.00; \$10,850.00; \$10,900.00; \$10,950.00; \$11,000.00; \$11,050.00; \$11,100.00; \$11,150.00; \$11,200.00; \$11,250.00; \$11,300.00; \$11,350.00; \$11,400.00; \$11,450.00; \$11,500.00; \$11,550.00; \$11,600.00; \$11,650.00; \$11,700.00; \$11,750.00; \$11,800.00; \$11,850.00; \$11,900.00; \$11,950.00; \$12,000.00; \$12,050.00; \$12,100.00; \$12,150.00; \$12,200.00; \$12,250.00; \$12,300.00; \$12,350.00; \$12,400.00; \$12,450.00; \$12,500.00; \$12,550.00; \$12,600.00; \$12,650.00; \$12,700.00; \$12,750.00; \$12,800.00; \$12,850.00; \$12,900.00; \$12,950.00; \$13,000.00; \$13,050.00; \$13,100.00; \$13,150.00; \$13,200.00; \$13,250.00; \$13,300.00; \$13,350.00; \$13,400.00; \$13,450.00; \$13,500.00; \$13,550.00; \$13,600.00; \$13,650.00; \$13,700.00; \$13,750.00; \$13,800.00; \$13,850.00; \$13,900.00; \$13,950.00; \$14,000.00; \$14,050.00; \$14,100.00; \$14,150.00; \$14,200.00; \$14,250.00; \$14,300.00; \$14,350.00; \$14,400.00; \$14,450.00; \$14,500.00; \$14,550.00; \$14,600.00; \$14,650.00; \$14,700.00; \$14,750.00; \$14,800.00; \$14,850.00; \$14,900.00; \$14,950.00; \$15,000.00; \$15,050.00; \$15,100.00; \$15,150.00; \$15,200.00; \$15,250.00; \$15,300.00; \$15,350.00; \$15,400.00; \$15,450.00; \$15,500.00; \$15,550.00; \$15,600.00; \$15,650.00; \$15,700.00; \$15,750.00; \$15,800.00; \$15,850.00; \$15,900.00; \$15,950.00; \$16,000.00; \$16,050.00; \$16,100.00; \$16,150.00; \$16,200.00; \$16,250.00; \$16,300.00; \$16,350.00; \$16,400.00; \$16,450.00; \$16,500.00; \$16,550.00; \$16,600.00; \$16,650.00; \$16,700.00; \$16,750.00; \$16,800.00; \$16,850.00; \$16,900.00; \$16,950.00; \$17,000.00; \$17,050.00; \$17,100.00; \$17,150.00; \$17,200.00; \$17,250.00; \$17,300.00; \$17,350.00; \$17,400.00; \$17,450.00; \$17,500.00; \$17,550.00; \$17,600.00; \$17,650.00; \$17,700.00; \$17,750.00; \$17,800.00; \$17,850.00; \$17,900.00; \$17,950.00; \$18,000.00; \$18,050.00; \$18,100.00; \$18,150.00; \$18,200.00; \$18,250.00; \$18,300.00; \$18,350.00; \$18,400.00; \$18,450.00; \$18,500.00; \$18,550.00; \$18,600.00; \$18,650.00; \$18,700.00; \$18,750.00; \$18,800.00; \$18,850.00; \$18,900.00; \$18,950.00; \$19,000.00; \$19,050.00; \$19,100.00; \$19,150.00; \$19,200.00; \$19,250.00; \$19,300.00; \$19,350.00; \$19,400.00; \$19,450.00; \$19,500.00; \$19,550.00; \$19,600.00; \$19,650.00; \$19,700.00; \$19,750.00; \$19,800.00; \$19,850.00; \$19,900.00; \$19,950.00; \$20,000.00; \$20,050.00; \$20,100.00; \$20,150.00; \$20,200.00; \$20,250.00; \$20,300.00; \$20,350.00; \$20,400.00; \$20,450.00; \$20,500.00; \$20,550.00; \$20,600.00; \$20,650.00; \$20,700.00; \$20,750.00; \$20,800.00; \$20,850.00; \$20,900.00; \$20,950.00; \$21,000.00; \$21,050.00; \$21,100.00; \$21,150.00; \$21,200.00; \$21,250.00; \$21,300.00; \$21,350.00; \$21,400.00; \$21,450.00; \$21,500.00; \$21,550.00; \$21,600.00; \$21,650.00; \$21,700.00; \$21,750.00; \$21,800.00; \$21,850.00; \$21,900.00; \$21,950.00; \$22,000.00; \$22,050.00; \$22,100.00; \$22,150.00; \$22,200.00; \$22,250.00; \$22,300.00; \$22,350.00; \$22,400.00; \$22,450.00; \$22,500.00; \$22,550.00; \$22,600.00; \$22,650.00; \$22,700.00; \$22,750.00; \$22,800.00; \$22,850.00; \$22,900.00; \$22,950.00; \$23,000.00; \$23,050.00; \$23,100.00; \$23,150.00; \$23,200.00; \$23,250.00; \$23,300.00; \$23,350.00; \$23,400.00; \$23,450.00; \$23,500.00; \$23,550.00; \$23,600.00; \$23,650.00; \$23,700.00; \$23,750.00; \$23,800.00; \$23,850.00; \$23,900.00; \$23,950.00; \$24,000.00; \$24,050.00; \$24,100.00; \$24,150.00; \$24,200.00; \$24,250.00; \$24,300.00; \$24,350.00; \$24,400.00; \$24,450.00; \$24,500.00; \$24,550.00; \$24,600.00; \$24,650.00; \$24,700.00; \$24,750.00; \$24,800.00; \$24,850.00; \$24,900.00; \$24,950.00; \$25,000.00; \$25,050.00; \$25,100.00; \$25,150.00; \$25,200.00; \$25,250.00; \$25,300.00; \$25,350.00; \$25,400.00; \$25,450.00; \$25,500.00; \$25,550.00; \$25,600.00; \$25,650.00; \$25,700.00; \$25,750.00; \$25,800.00; \$25,850.00; \$25,900.00; \$25,950.00; \$26,000.00; \$26,050.00; \$26,100.00; \$26,150.00; \$26,200.00; \$26,250.00; \$26,300.00; \$26,350.00; \$26,400.00; \$26,450.00; \$26,500.00; \$26,550.00; \$26,600.00; \$26,650.00; \$26,700.00; \$26,750.00; \$26,800.00; \$26,850.00; \$26,900.00; \$26,950.00; \$27,000.00; \$27,050.00; \$27,100.00; \$27,150.00; \$27,200.00; \$27,250.00; \$27,300.00; \$27,350.00; \$27,400.00; \$27,450.00; \$27,500.00; \$27,550.00; \$27,600.00; \$27,650.00; \$27,700.00; \$27,750.00; \$27,800.00; \$27,850.00; \$27,900.00; \$27,950.00; \$28,000.00; \$28,050.00; \$28,100.00; \$28,150.00; \$28,200.00; \$28,250.00; \$28,300.00; \$28,350.00; \$28,400.00; \$28,450.00; \$28,500.00; \$28,550.00; \$28,600.00; \$28,650.00; \$28,700.00; \$28,750.00; \$28,800.00; \$28,850.00; \$28,900.00; \$28,950.00; \$29,000.00; \$29,050.00; \$29,100.00; \$29,150.00; \$29,200.00; \$29,250.00; \$29,300.00; \$29,350.00; \$29,400.00; \$29,450.00; \$29,500.00; \$29,550.00; \$29,600.00; \$29,650.00; \$29,700.00; \$29,750.00; \$29,800.00; \$29,850.00; \$29,900.00; \$29,950.00; \$30,000.00; \$30,050.00; \$30,100.00; \$30,150.00; \$30,200.00; \$30,250.00; \$30,300.00; \$30,350.00; \$30,400.00; \$30,450.00; \$30,500.00; \$30,550.00; \$30,600.00; \$30,650.00; \$30,700.00; \$30,750.00; \$30,800.00; \$30,850.00; \$30,900.00; \$30,950.00; \$31,000.00; \$31,050.00; \$31,100.00; \$31,150.00; \$31,200.00; \$31,250.00; \$31,300.00; \$31,350.00; \$31,400.00; \$31,450.00; \$31,500.00; \$31,550.00; \$31,600.00; \$31,650.00; \$31,700.00; \$31,750.00; \$31,800.00; \$31,850.00; \$31,900.00; \$31,950.00; \$32,000.00; \$32,050.00; \$32,100.00; \$32,150.00; \$32,200.00; \$32,250.00; \$32,300.00; \$32,350.00; \$32,400.00; \$32,450.00; \$32,500.00; \$32,550.00; \$32,600.00; \$32,650.00; \$32,700.00; \$32,750.00; \$32,800.00; \$32,850.00; \$32,900.00; \$32,950.00; \$33,000.00; \$33,050.00; \$33,100.00; \$33,150.00; \$33,200.00; \$33,250.00; \$33,300.00; \$33,350.00; \$33,400.00; \$33,450.00; \$33,500.00; \$33,550.00; \$33,600.00; \$33,650.00; \$33,700.00; \$33,750.00; \$33,800.00; \$33,850.00; \$33,900.00; \$33,950.00; \$34,000.00; \$34,050.00; \$34,100.00; \$34,150.00; \$34,200.00; \$34,250.00; \$34,300.00; \$34,350.00; \$34,400.00; \$34,450.00; \$34,500.00; \$34,550.00; \$34,600.00; \$34,650.00; \$34,700.00; \$34,750.00; \$34,800.00; \$34,850.00; \$34,900.00; \$34,950.00; \$35,000.00; \$35,050.00; \$35,100.00; \$35,150.00; \$35,200.00; \$35,250.00; \$35,300.00; \$35,350.00; \$35,400.00; \$35,450.00; \$35,500.00; \$35,550.00; \$35